



# PRIMARY NEWSLETTER



No 6 – 2023/2024

The British School of Lomé

01-12-23

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ❖ Friday 08-12-23 6:00pm Primary Drama Production 'Matilda'
- ❖ Monday 11-12-23 7:00 PM Christmas Carols at Cathedral
- ❖ Tuesday 12-12-23 - End of Term 1 Reports
- ❖ Thursday 14-12-23 - Parent /Teacher meetings
- ❖ Friday 15-12-23 – Crèche, Nursery and KS1 End of Term celebration
- ❖ School Closes for holidays (Primary)- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Dec. at 12:00 noon (No lunch) – Campus clear by 1:00pm
- ❖ School Closes for holidays (Secondary) – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Dec. at 12:30 pm (No lunch)- Campus clear by 1:00pm
- ❖ Monday 08-01-24 7:45- School Reopens

## Head of Primary Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we enter December, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued unwavering support during this first Term and especially the recent internal assessments. Your encouragement and involvement have been instrumental in helping our students achieve their best. We are grateful for your partnership and look forward to continuing to work together to provide the best possible education for your children.

I would like to remind you that the children's reports will be sent home on December 12th. We are proud of the progress our students have made and we hope that you will take the time to celebrate their achievements with them.

After this, we will be holding a parents' evening on December 14th. This is an opportunity for you to come and talk to your child's teacher to discuss their progress and next steps. Also, please do not forget that if there is anything that you would like to talk to me about or any concerns you may have my door is always open and I will be available to meet with you throughout the evening.

As I am sure you are aware, we have been experiencing some hot weather recently. Please ensure that your child comes to school prepared with a hat and plenty of water to stay hydrated.

I would also like to remind you about our collection of gifts for orphanages and less fortunate children. You will receive more details in an email very soon. We appreciate your generosity and support in making this holiday season special for everyone particularly those who are not as blessed as we are.

Additionally, I would like to draw your attention to some upcoming events. Our Primary production of Matilda, The Musical, will be held on Friday, December 8th at 6:00pm. We hope that you will join us for what promises to be a wonderful evening. Also the younger children will be doing a little end of term celebration on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am; I hope you can make it to this too.

Finally, our annual Carols in the Sacred Heart Cathedral Lomé, will be held on December 11th at 7pm. This is always a highlight of the year and we hope that you will be able to attend.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with you and your children.

Kind regards,

Mr Gareth Jones.

## Year 1 Reading Adventure

In Year One, we enjoy the joy of shared reading experiences that goes beyond individual growth; it fosters connections, empathy, and lasting friendships among our students and their reading buddies. As they explore diverse texts, our Year One students are cultivating creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills—essential tools for their future success. We invite parents and guidance to be part of this reading adventure by getting involved at home, whether through shared reading or creating cosy reading spaces. Together, let's continue nurturing a love for books that extends far beyond our classroom, shaping the foundation of a bright and exciting future for our students.



## Year 2 Inventors

Year 2 students learned about materials and their properties and are presenting their inventions in the year 2 invention museum.



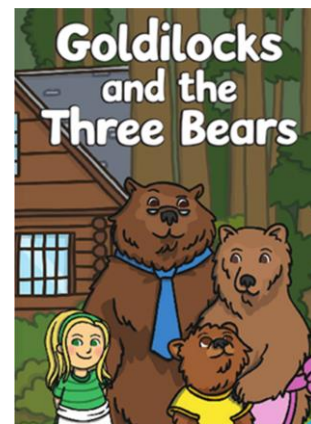
## Year 3 Gardeners



Year 3 has been busy planting seeds in the Wigan garden this week as part of their unit in Science. We are eagerly waiting for them to grow!

## Crèche and Nursery

This week in Nursery and Crèche we started our third pattern of 3 story: Goldilocks and the Three Bears.



The children have enjoyed listening to the story. They made chocolate bears using a range of physical development skills.





## Year 4 FANBOYS

Year 4 have been developing and expanding their knowledge of English grammar. They learned how coordinating conjunctions (FANBOYS) can be used to link sentences.



## Uniform and Shoes

As we have now said many times our uniform is an important part of our school identity. Looking smart and having the correct uniform is one thing that we should all aspire to as it is part of our good discipline. Therefore, after Christmas **MUST** be dressed in the correct uniform including all black or navy shoes.



## PE Department

The PE Department has been engaging our students, both Primary and Secondary, in some intense sporting challenges these past few weeks. Please enjoy these pictures, shared here with you, of our Secondary students hard at play. A sound mind, they say, is in a sound body!



## Unauthorised Leave

We would like to inform you that the last day of school is on **Friday 15th December 2023**. The school resumes on **Monday 8th Dec 2024** (School starts at 7:55am)

We have received requests from some of our students to go on holiday earlier than the designated date. We would like to remind you that such leaves may well affect their studies and exam results as they will miss out on learning days. In this case, our school will not be held responsible for their lesser progress.

We kindly request that you do not plan any holidays during term time. If you must take your child out of school for any reason, please inform us in advance and provide a valid reason. Please note that any such leave will be classed as unauthorised leave.

We have also noticed some children taking unnecessary days off for other reasons too and being late on many occasions. This may also affect learning and eventually examination results.



## From The Head of School

Dear Parents and Guardians,

### **HIGH ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND 50% GRADING POLICY**

I would like to discuss an important matter concerning our school's academic standard. Firstly, I must acknowledge that the exam results from the previous year were not as satisfactory as we had hoped. We received feedback from both students and parents expressing concerns about the academic progress of our students, incomplete curriculum and the overall quality of education we provided. This compelled us to reflect and take the necessary steps to address these concerns in the best possible way.

To raise the bar and ensure a solid foundation for our students' academic development, we have implemented a new grading policy this year. We have established a minimum passing score of 50% for all internal exams. The decision to adopt a percentage-based grading system was intentional, as it offers teachers, students, and parents a comprehensive view of their academic performance. This universally accepted standard allows for better assessment and comparison, irrespective of other forms of grading.

**MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARDS:** It is worth noting that many international examination bodies temporarily lowered their standards due to COVID-19 disruptions, with the intention of providing support and preventing students from failing. However, with the easing of COVID measures, it is highly likely that these grade boundaries and thresholds will be raised once again. Therefore, it is crucial for our school to maintain high standards to prepare for when the international examination bodies reinstate their original criteria.

**INTERVENTION AND REMEDIAL MEASURES:** In line with our commitment to excellence, if a student obtains less than 50% marks in their internal exams, our dedicated teachers will mobilise additional measures to support their learning. Students with lower percentages will be taught using **UK style IDP (Individual Development Plan)** which will have targeted measures for improvement and a contract signed by parents to support the school. We would also like bring back the Learning Support Department for more personalised teaching and pastoral support for our students. Other measures may include extra lessons, evening classes, or even suggesting to parents the option of enrolment in our boarding school, offering an environment conducive to concentration and enhanced study.

**ECM (Every Child Matters):** Being a father and blessed with two daughters (primary and university age - in the UK), I can empathise with the expectations of every parent who would like to see a brighter future for their children. The Every Child Matters initiative has been hailed as one of the 21st century's most important policy initiatives and development programmes in relation to children and children's services in the UK. Every child has a right to receive an engaging education of the highest standard that provides the practical skills, emotional support, ethics, and confidence that children need to grow into successful and respectful citizens.

**CONCERNS ABOUT CURRICULUM COMPLETION:** There was also a complaint from last year that the teachers didn't get to complete the curriculum. Hence, students felt unprepared to appear in exams. We are also willing to extend the school year to align with other good international schools to give the required time for teachers to teach the curriculum to its completion. Our aim is to guide and motivate students to improve their grades, ensuring they are fully prepared for the external examinations.

**UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS:** If students and parents express concerns about university admissions and the impact of their transcripts, we are ready to work closely with them to explore options for conditional offers. However, it is important to emphasise that confirmed admission to universities can only be attained through high performance in the external examinations. Therefore, we believe it is vital to accurately measure our students' standards and progress using the percentage-based grading policy, with a 50% minimum pass requirement.

## From The Head of School (continued)

**GROWTH MINDSET:** It is essential for parents to understand that since this is only the first term, there is ample time for students and teachers to work together to achieve higher standards leading up to the external exams. Maintaining high expectations for our students is crucial, as numerous studies have shown that high expectations foster improved performance, often referred to as the Rosenthal effect or the Pygmalion effect. Should a student receive lower results in the Term 1 exams due to these heightened expectations, it is our collective responsibility to support and encourage them to work harder and strive for better results in the external exams.

There are good reasons to assume that teachers' beliefs and expectations can influence student success—an idea that has been embraced by parents, students, teachers, and policymakers in the USA. During graduation season each year, proud valedictorians thank the nurturing adults in their lives for pushing them to do their best. President George W. Bush famously criticized the “soft bigotry of low expectations” in support of his education-reform agenda. Ref: <https://www.educationnext.org/power-of-teacher-expectations-racial-bias-hinders-student-attainment/>

Our decision is to raise the pass marks to 50% in order to encourage our students to work harder and achieve their full potential. While we believe that this change will benefit our students in the long run, we understand that it may be difficult for some students to adjust to this new policy. We would like to request that you do not feel disappointed if your child receives lower grades due to this change. Instead, we encourage you to support your child and help them work harder in order to achieve better results in the next exams. By setting *high expectations and providing support, we can help our students succeed.*

To read more about *Why Low Expectation Are So Damaging for Students Achievements*, please click here: <https://innovativeresources.org/why-low-expectations-are-so-damaging-in-human-services-and-education/>

I assure you that our teaching staff is fully committed to providing the best education and support possible to our students. We are determined to help them excel academically, ensuring a bright future and countless opportunities.

Thank you for your continued support.

Happy New Month to you!

Best regards,

Akif Naqvi,  
Head of School.

**HIGH EXPECTATIONS (EDUCATION)**  
"High expectations" means having an attitude that you expect the best out of students at all times.

DEFINITION	EXAMPLES
Having high expectations means believing students should always strive to achieve their best. Raising expectations is not about being strict or a micro-manager. It's quite the opposite. By raising your expectations, students will work hard whether you're watching them or not. The goal is to create a classroom culture of hard work and self-belief.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Teach about growth mindsets.</li><li>2. Focus on effort, not excellence.</li><li>3. Ask students to try again.</li><li>4. Set achievable but difficult tasks.</li><li>5. Address causes of poor quality.</li><li>6. Be a role model.</li><li>7. Express positive regard.</li></ol>

## From The Head of School (French)

Chers Parents et Tuteurs,

### **NORMES ACADÉMIQUES ÉLEVÉES ET POLITIQUE DE NOTATION DE 50 %**

J'aimerais discuter d'une question importante concernant le niveau académique de notre école. Tout d'abord, je dois reconnaître que les résultats des examens de l'année précédente n'ont pas été aussi satisfaisants que nous l'espérons. Nous avons reçu des commentaires d'élèves et de parents exprimant leurs inquiétudes concernant les progrès académiques de nos élèves, le programme incomplet et la qualité globale de l'éducation que nous dispensons. Cela nous a obligé à réfléchir et à prendre les mesures nécessaires pour répondre au mieux à ces préoccupations.

Pour relever la barre et assurer une base solide au développement académique de nos élèves, nous avons mis en œuvre cette année une nouvelle politique de notation. Nous avons établi une note de passage minimale de 50 % pour tous les examens trimestriels. Ce score signifie qu'environ 50 % du programme ait été couvert, fournissant une référence claire pour les progrès. La décision d'adopter un système de notation basé sur un pourcentage était intentionnelle, car elle offre aux enseignants, aux élèves et aux parents une vision globale de leurs résultats scolaires. Cette norme universellement acceptée permet une meilleure évaluation et comparaison, indépendamment des autres formes de notation.

**MAINTENIR DES NORMES ÉLEVÉES:** Il convient de noter que de nombreux organismes d'examens internationaux ont temporairement abaissé leurs normes en raison des perturbations liées au COVID-19, dans le but de fournir un soutien et d'empêcher les élèves d'échouer. Cependant, avec l'assouplissement des mesures liées au COVID, il est fort probable que ces limites et seuils de notes soient à nouveau relevés. Par conséquent, il est crucial pour notre école de maintenir des normes élevées afin de se préparer au moment où les organismes d'examen internationaux rétabliront leurs critères d'origine.

**INTERVENTION ET MESURES CORRECTIVES:** Conformément à notre engagement envers l'excellence, si un élève obtient moins de 50% de notes à ses examens internes, nos enseignants dévoués mobiliseront des mesures supplémentaires pour soutenir l'apprentissage. Les élèves ayant des pourcentages inférieurs recevront un enseignement en utilisant un **IDP (Plan de développement individuel)** de style britannique qui comportera des mesures d'amélioration ciblées et un contrat signé par les parents pour soutenir l'école. Nous aimerions également ramener le Département de Soutien à l'Apprentissage pour un enseignement et un soutien pastoral plus personnalisés à nos élèves. D'autres mesures peuvent inclure des cours supplémentaires, des cours du soir, ou encore proposer aux parents la possibilité de s'inscrire dans notre internat, offrant un environnement propice à la concentration et aux études approfondies.

**ECM (Every Child Matters):** Étant père et ayant la chance d'avoir deux filles (en âge du Primaire et universitaire - au Royaume-Uni), je peux comprendre les attentes de tous les parents qui aimeraient voir un avenir meilleur pour leurs enfants. L'initiative "Every Child Matters" a été saluée comme l'une des initiatives politiques et des programmes de développement les plus importants du 21e siècle en matière d'enfants et de services à l'enfance au Royaume-Uni. Chaque enfant a le droit de recevoir une éducation engageante du plus haut niveau qui lui apporte les compétences pratiques, le soutien émotionnel, l'éthique et la confiance dont les enfants ont besoin pour devenir des citoyens prospères et respectueux.



## A Message from The Head of School (French continued)

**PRÉOCCUPATIONS CONCERNANT L'ACHÈVEMENT DU PROGRAMME:** Des plaintes ont également été déposées l'année dernière selon lesquelles les enseignants n'avaient pas pu terminer le programme. Par conséquent, les élèves ne se sentaient pas préparés à se présenter aux examens. Nous sommes également disposés à prolonger l'année scolaire pour nous aligner sur d'autres bonnes écoles internationales afin de donner aux enseignants le temps nécessaire pour enseigner le programme jusqu'à son terme. Notre objectif est de guider et de motiver les élèves à améliorer leurs notes, en veillant à ce qu'ils soient pleinement préparés pour les examens externes.

**ADMISSIONS À L'UNIVERSITÉ:** Si les élèves et les parents expriment des inquiétudes concernant les admissions à l'université et l'impact de leurs relevés de notes, nous sommes prêts à travailler en étroite collaboration avec eux pour explorer les options d'offres conditionnelles. Toutefois, il est important de souligner que l'admission confirmée dans les universités ne peut être obtenue que par de bonnes performances aux examens externes. Par conséquent, nous pensons qu'il est essentiel de mesurer avec précision les normes et les progrès de nos élèves en utilisant la politique de notation basée sur un pourcentage, avec une exigence de réussite minimale de 50 %.

**ESPRIT DE CROISSANCE:** Il est essentiel que les parents comprennent que, puisqu'il ne s'agit que du premier trimestre, les élèves et les enseignants disposent de suffisamment de temps pour travailler ensemble afin d'atteindre des normes plus élevées avant les examens externes. Il est crucial de maintenir des attentes élevées envers nos élèves, car de nombreuses études ont montré que des attentes élevées favorisent une amélioration des performances, souvent appelée effet Rosenthal ou effet Pygmalion. Si un élève obtient des résultats inférieurs aux examens du premier trimestre en raison de ces attentes accrues, il est de notre responsabilité collective de le soutenir et de l'encourager à travailler plus dur et à s'efforcer d'obtenir de meilleurs résultats aux examens externes.

Il y a de bonnes raisons de supposer que les convictions et les attentes des enseignants peuvent influencer la réussite des élèves – une idée qui a été adoptée par les parents, les élèves, les enseignants et les décideurs politiques. Chaque année, pendant la saison des diplômes, les fiers majors de promotion remercient les adultes bienveillants de leur vie de les avoir poussés à faire de leur mieux. Le président George W. Bush a critiqué « le sectarisme doux des faibles attentes » à l'appui de son programme de réforme de l'éducation. Réf : <https://www.educationnext.org/power-of-teacher-expectations-racial-bias-hinders-student-attainment/>

Notre décision est de hausser la note de passage à 50 % afin d'encourager nos élèves à travailler plus dur et à réaliser leur plein potentiel. Même si nous pensons que ce changement profitera à nos élèves à long terme, nous comprenons qu'il puisse être difficile pour certains élèves de s'adapter à cette nouvelle réglementation. Nous aimerions vous demander de ne pas vous sentir déçu si votre enfant reçoit des notes inférieures en raison de ce changement. Nous vous encourageons plutôt à soutenir votre enfant et à l'aider à travailler plus dur afin d'obtenir de meilleurs résultats aux prochains examens. *En fixant des attentes élevées et en leur apportant du soutien, nous pouvons aider nos élèves à réussir.*

Pour en savoir plus sur les raisons pour lesquelles de faibles attentes sont si préjudiciables aux résultats des élèves, veuillez cliquer ici : <https://innovativeresources.org/why-low-expectations-are-so-damaging-in-human-services-and-education/>

Je vous assure que notre personnel enseignant est pleinement engagé à fournir la meilleure éducation et le meilleur soutien possible à nos élèves. Nous sommes déterminés à les aider à exceller sur le plan académique, en leur garantissant un avenir brillant et d'innombrables opportunités.

Merci pour votre soutien continu.

Heureux nouveau mois à vous!

Bien cordialement,  
Akif Naqvi,  
Head of School.

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## Year 6 Science Experiments

Year 6 have been learning about light and shadows in their Science lessons for the last six weeks. As a way to round off this science topic, the students were given a choice of different projects. They chose a piece of equipment to make that demonstrated one of the properties of light. Some made telescopes, others a kaleidoscope, and others tried to burn a piece of paper with the use of sunlight and a lens. Not all of the experiments worked in the way we had intended, which was in itself a learning experience about what 'real life' science is like. We learn more from our failures than we do from our successes.



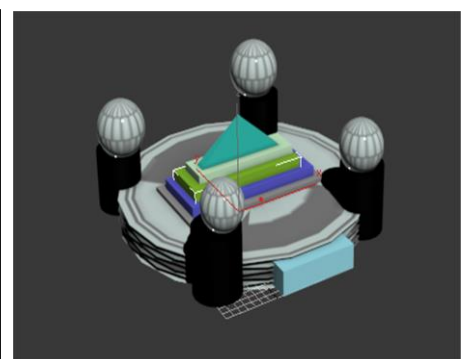
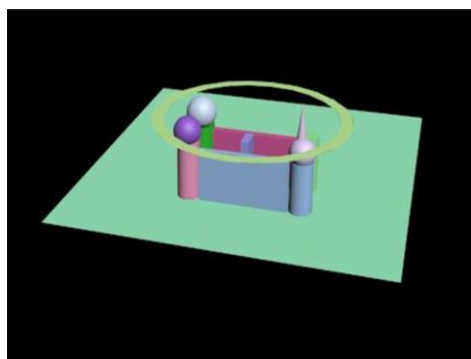
## Year 3 at The French Institute

Our Year 3 Higher Level French students had a great outing to the French Institute in Lomé. They went to the French Library and had an amazing story read to them. They drew pictures and they looked around the very beautiful French Institute. A BIG THANK YOU to Miss Claire Bertaud for organising the trip, we look forward to many more in Term 2. Mr Naqvi and Mr Jones both joined the 'sortie fantastique.'



## ASEP (After School Enrichment Programme) 3D Modeling

In the 3D Modelling Club, we have been working on some awesome castle designs. Using the 3DS Max modelling software, pupils have been designing and creating their own 3D castles. A big thank you to Mr D'Arcy Nichol for bringing his expertise to the school's After School Enrichment Programme. Take a look at the designs created by our budding animators online. If you see yourself as a future game designer, graphical artist or just want to make some cool models then come along to the 3D Modelling Club during the After School Enrichment Programme next term.





## La Coupe de Noël Rapid Chess Tournament!

*Join us for an exciting day of strategic battles and chess brilliance at La Coupe de Noël Rapid Chess Tournament!*

*Come and sharpen your chess skills*

*Make new friends who share your passion*

*Win attractive prizes for top performers*

*Thrilling 7-round competition*

*Fast-paced games with 15 minutes + 3 seconds increment*

*Festive atmosphere with a touch of holiday cheer*

*Chess enthusiasts under 12 and under 18 years old are invited*

*All skill levels are welcome*

**Saturday, 23rd December 2023**

**La COUPE de NOËL**  
TOURNOI RAPIDE DU JEU D'ÉCHECS

**SAM 23 DEC 2023 8h**

**Catégorie**  
-12 ans -18 ans

**La bruschetta**  
Harmonie Signature

Pour toutes informations  
+228 93 95 87 24/91 83 99 79

Participation: 3000 frs (Collation offerte)  
Cadence: 15min+3s  
7 rondes  
Prix, Cadeaux et d'autres Surprises

## Primary Drama Production

**BSL PRESENTS**

**Roald Dahl's Matilda THE MUSICAL**

**Date: Friday 8th December 2023**      **Time: 6 PM prompt**

**Venue: BSL Amphitheatre**

# 2023 TRACKS Christmas Appeals

## (Anglais)

Dear Parents,

At this time of the year, as a part of our activities and service to the community, TRACKS organises charitable deeds in favour of the orphanage in Aneho, as well as in schools for the hearing impaired, Vivenda & Ephphatha.

We would be delighted to count you among the donors of the TRACKS Appeals this year. For the Christmas appeal, you can donate food and necessities, and for the Toys appeal, you can donate toys for the children at the orphanage aged 0-10 years.

To enable us to deliver your donations in time before the Christmas holidays, please send all your donations to the reception of The British School of Lomé by Monday the 11th of December 2023.

Thank you for your support for these charities.

Best regards

## (French)

Chers Parents,

En cette période de l'année, dans le cadre de nos activités et service à la communauté, TRACKS organise des actions caritatives en faveur de l'orphelinat d'Aneho Pouponnière et aux écoles pour malentendants Vivenda & Ephphatha.

Nous serions ravis de vous compter parmi les donateurs du 'TRACKS Appeals' cette année. Pour le 'Christmas Appeal' vous êtes invités à donner des vivres et produits de premières nécessité et pour le 'Toys appeal' vous pouvez faire don de jouets aux enfants âgés de 0-10 ans de l'orphelinat.

Afin de nous permettre de délivrer vos dons à temps avant les congés de Christmas, merci de faire parvenir tous vos dons à la réception de The British School of Lomé d'ici le lundi 11 Décembre 2023.

Merci pour votre soutien à ces œuvres de charité.

Bien cordialement





Help make a child smile this Christmas...

**BSL**

**CHRISTMAS TOYS APPEAL**

Please send your donation of toys to our Front Office.

The toys will be given as gifts to orphanages we support as a School.



 **Tracks Christmas Appeal!**

Help us help others have a very Merry Christmas by donating food supplies, toiletries, medicines and educational resources to our Christmas Tracks Appeal.

All items will be shared with our Tracks partners:

- Aneho Orphanage Pouponniere, Divine Providence
- Vivenda and Ephphatha Schools for the Deaf



Making Tracks within the local community!



Thank you for your continued support!

We need:

1. Food supplies such as Baby Milk, Bags of rice, spaghetti, beans, gari, maize, tins of tomato paste, cooking oil, sugar, flour and tins of sardines.
2. Toiletries such as washing powder, soap, tooth brushes and tooth paste.
3. Medicines
4. Educational resources such as exercise books, pens and pencils!





Parents Association of the British School of Lomé

## Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting

# ELECTION

OF 10 CANDIDATES TO THE NEW  
MANAGING COMMITTEE.

THURSDAY,  
**DECEMBER 7, 2023**

06 : PM

BRITISH SCHOOL  
OF LOMÉ HALL

Please note that :

- Only parents of current students at the British School of Lomé have the right to vote.
- Each family has one vote.
- Your valid ID will be required
- We encourage all parents to attend this important meeting.



Association des Parents de l'école Britannique de Lomé

## Assemblée Générale Extraordinaire

# ELECTION

DE 10 CANDIDATS AU NOUVEAU  
BUREAU EXECUTIF.

JEUDI  
**07 DEC. 2023**

18H 00'

BSL

Veillez noter que :

- Seuls les parents des élèves actuels de la British School of Lomé ont le droit de voter.
- Chaque famille dispose d'une voix.
- Votre pièce d'identité valide sera nécessaire
- Nous encourageons tous les parents à assister à cette réunion importante.